

I claim:

1. A method of coupling two adjacent pipes, comprising the steps of:

forming a first flange on the end of the first pipe;

forming a second flange on the end of the second pipe;

providing an inlet insert that is inserted into inlets of the first and second pipes; and

capturing the first and second flanges and said inlet insert with a clamp, coupling the first and second pipes by closing said clamp.

2. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a clamping ring having an inner groove, said inner groove being sized to receive said first and second flanges.

3. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming at least one first sealing groove in a first end of said inlet insert and forming at least one second sealing groove in a second end of said inlet insert.

4. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

providing said clamp with at least one clamp body and means for securing said clamp body around said clamping ring, each one of said at least one clamp body including a U-shaped cross section, said U-shaped cross section being sized to receive said clamping ring.

5. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

providing a sealing member which is sized to be received by each said sealing groove, each said sealing member providing a seal between said inlet insert and the first pipe or the second pipe.

6. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming a first taper on an inner perimeter of said inlet insert at a first end thereof and forming a second taper on an inner perimeter of said inlet insert at a second end thereof.

7. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming a peripheral projection around said inlet insert.

8. A method of coupling a pipe and a sprinkler pipe, comprising the steps of:

providing an inlet insert that is inserted into inlets of the pipe and the sprinkler pipe;

providing a seal between said inlet insert and one of the pipe and the sprinkler pipe;

attaching a retention tab to one of the pipe and the sprinkler pipe; and

attaching pivotally a latch to one of the sprinkler pipe and the pipe, engaging said latch with said retention tab to couple the pipe and the sprinkler pipe.

9. A method of coupling a pipe and a sprinkler pipe of claim 8, comprising the steps of:

forming at least one first sealing groove in a first end of said inlet insert and forming at least one second sealing groove in a second end of said inlet insert.

10. A method of coupling a pipe and a sprinkler pipe of claim 9, comprising the steps of:

providing a sealing member which is sized to be received by each said sealing groove, each said sealing member providing a seal between said inlet insert and the pipe or the sprinkler pipe.

11. A method of coupling a pipe and a sprinkler pipe of claim 8, comprising the steps of:

forming a peripheral projection around said inlet insert.

12. A method of coupling a pipe and a sprinkler pipe of claim 8, comprising the steps of:

fabricating the sprinkler pipe by attaching a boss to a wall of a pipe, taping the boss to threadably receive a fitting.

13. A method of coupling two adjacent pipes, comprising the steps of:

sliding a first end collar over an end of a first pipe and forming a first flange on an end of the first pipe;

sliding a second end collar over an end of a second pipe and forming a second flange on the end of the second pipe;

providing an inlet insert that is inserted into inlets of the first and second pipes; and

capturing the first and second collars, the first and second flanges and said inlet insert with a clamp, coupling the first and second pipes by closing said clamp.

14. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

expanding the end of the first pipe before sliding on said first end collar and expanding the end of the second pipe before sliding on said second end collar

15. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

forming at least one first sealing groove in an inner perimeter of the first pipe and forming at least one second sealing groove in an inner perimeter of the second pipe.

16. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

providing a sealing member which is sized to be received by each said sealing groove, each said sealing member providing a seal between said inlet insert and the first pipe or the second pipe.

17. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

forming a peripheral projection around said inlet insert.

18. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

providing said clamp with at least one clamp body and means for securing said clamp body around said first and second end collars, said first and second flanges and said peripheral projection, each one of said at least one clamp body including a U-shaped cross section, said U-shaped cross section being sized to receive said first and second end collars, said first and second flanges and said peripheral projection.

19. The method of coupling two adjacent pipes of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

providing each said end collar with a ring body, a flange projection and a ring projection, radially extending said flange projection from an end of said ring body, extending said ring projection from an outer edge of said flange projection.